

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered at least because they do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration, and because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-12, 14, 16, 20-23 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13, 15, 17-19 and 24 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 13, 15, 17-19 and 24 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 25. Independent claim 24, from which claim 25 depended, has been amended to include all the features of claim 25. Thus, claim 24 is now in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Dependent claims 13, 15 and 17-19 ultimately depend from claim 24, and thus are likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 12, 13, 15, 19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. SIR H1435 to Cherne et al. ("Cherne"). Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherne in view of U.S. Patent 5,663,588 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki"). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 12 and 21-23, and the amendment to claim 24 to include subject matter indicated as allowable (dependent claims 13, 15 and 17-19 depend from claim 24 either directly or indirectly).

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 2, 2005

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